

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECP:SHROGERS:SAB

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

ARA/CEN:MWEISSMAN

S/S- MR. BRIDGES

E:WDROGERS

S- MR. PASSAGE

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R 151804Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175296

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, XM, GT

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA,  
JUNE 10, 1976

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ADOLFO MOLINA ORANTES MET WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS ON JUNE 10 SHORTLY BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE FROM THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING IN SANTIAGO. PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS OF THE CONVERSATION WERE THE SHIPPING DISPUTE, EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION, BELIZE, AND THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE.

2. THE SECRETARY AND MOLINA AGREED THAT THERE WERE NO MAJOR PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GUATEMALA. MOLINA RAISED THE DELTA-FLOMERCA QUESTION AS A SMALL PROBLEM THAT CONTINUED. ROGERS RECALLED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD ARRANGED FOR HOLDING OFF ACTION AGAINST GUATEMALA AT  
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MOLINA'S REQUEST BECAUSE OF THE EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION

PROBLEMS. IN DISCUSSING THE SHIPPING QUESTION, MOLINA MENTIONED THAT A RAILROAD (WHICH HE CALLED A "DRY CANAL") ACROSS GUATEMALA WOULD EASE THE PROBLEM OF THE PANAMA CANAL.

3. MOLINA INDICATED THAT THE GREATEST PROBLEM GUATEMALA FACES AT THIS TIME CONTINUES TO BE RECONSTRUCTION FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE. HE EXPRESSED WARM GRATITUDE OF GUATEMALA FOR THE MEDICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES. ROGERS NOTED THAT GUATEMALA HAD, IN ADDITION, GOOD ACCESS TO THE PRIVATE CAPITAL MARKET. MOLINA SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE GUATEMALAN ESTIMATE FOR RECONSTRUCTION COST WAS OVER A BILLION DOLLARS. THE SECRETARY PROMISED TO LOOK AGAIN AT THE PROBLEM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. MOLINA ADDED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WERE BEING HELPFUL AND THAT VENEZUELA HAD GIVEN GUATEMALA FORTY-ONE MILLION DOLLARS. HE SAID EVEN THE BRITISH HAD CONTRIBUTED.

4. ON BELIZE, THE SECRETARY REPORTED HIS IMPRESSION FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH CROSLAND THAT THE BRITISH WERE WILLING TO GIVE UP SOME TERRITORY, ALTHOUGH NOT AS MUCH AS THE GUATEMALANS WANTED. MOLINA'S RESPONSE WAS THAT GUATEMALA WANTED IT ALL, BUT THAT SOMETHING AT LEAST WAS NEEDED TO SAVE FACE BEFORE THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE. THE SECRETARY MENTIONED THE QUESTION OF MEASURING THE TWO HUNDRED-MILE LIMIT, WHICH MOLINA SAID WAS MORE A BRITISH THAN A GUATEMALAN INTEREST.

5. MOLINA SAID THAT GUATEMALA WOULD MEET WITH THE BRITISH JUNE 15 IN NEW YORK AND PRESENT TO THEM A PROPOSAL. HE GAVE THE SECRETARY A COPY OF THE PAPER, WHICH PROVIDES FOR A JOINT COUNCIL OF THREE GUATEMALANS AND THREE FROM BELIZE. IN ANSWER TO THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION, MOLINA SAID THAT IF THERE WERE A THREE-THREE SPLIT ON SOME QUESTION THE JOINT COUNCIL WOULD PRESUMABLY REPORT TO GOVERNMENTS. HE SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF A SEVENTH NEUTRAL MEMBER, POSSIBLY AN AMERICAN.

6. MOLINA EMPHASIZED THAT THE PROPOSAL IS SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT THE GUATEMALANS HAD AGREED WITH THE BRITISH THAT SETTING THE BOUNDARIES SHOULD COME AT A LATER STAGE. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE GUATEMALAN PROPOSAL WOULD GIVE THE GOG A VETO OVER ACTIONS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE JOINT COMMISSION. MOLINA COUNTERED THAT THERE WAS A POSITIVE SIDE, THE EXPENSE OF SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS THAT GUATEMALA WOULD BEAR FOR BPT/F.

7. MOLINA SUGGESTED THAT THE ISSUE MIGHT COME UP IN THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NON-ALIGNED

WOULD TRY TO STEAMROLLER THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP SHOULD KNOW THE ISSUES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES BEFORE THEIR MEETING IN COLOMBO.

8. FOLLOWING MOLINA'S EXPRESSION OF THANKS FOR THE MEETING, THE SECRETARY NOTED HIS BRIEF BUT VERY WARM VISIT TO GUATEMALA AND SAID THAT GUATEMALA COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON THE FIRM FRIENDSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE175296  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** SHROGERS:SAB  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760273-0685  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760754/aaaabvkf.tel  
**Line Count:** 129  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA, JUNE 10, 1976  
**TAGS:** ECON, PFOR, PBOR, SWEL, XM, GT, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (MOLINA ORANTES, ADOLFO)  
**To:** GUATEMALA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006